52. Excise. The biennial contract in force for the vend of country liquor having expired by the close of 1099, fresh contracts for a further period of two years were entered into from the commencement of the current year. The contract distillery system in regard to arrack is already in force throughout the State, except in the taluk of Devicolam, where, owing to peculiar geographical and other conditions, the right of manufacture and vend of arrack is vested in one and the same contractor. With effect from the beginning of the current year, the independent shop system, with its concomitant of tree-tax in regard to toddy, has been extended to the whole State, barring the Devicolam taluk where no toddy is drawn ; the number of both arrack and toddy shops has been reduced by about 5 per cent. for the current biennial contract ; and the duty on jaggery arrack has been raised from Bh. Rs. 3 as.12 to Bh. Rs. 4 and that on toddy arrack from Bh. Rs. 6 as.14 to Bh. Rs. 8 as.9 p.6 per proof gallon. The consumption of country liquor has gone down from 1,60,631 proof gallons in 1096 to 1,05,782 proof gallons or by 34 per cent. in 1099; and the changes introduced at the commencement of the current biennial contract should conduce to a further reduction in its consumption. The report of the Excise Committee, referred to in paragraph 48 of my last year's address, has been received and is being published with a view to invite criticism. The report by a majority recommends, *inter alia*, that no toddy or arrack shop be opened within two furlongs of a market, school-house or other place of public resort, that, as a rule, no shop, whether arrack or toddy, be opened within half a mile from one another in municipal areas and one mile in rural parts, and that a reduction of 5 per cent. in the total number of shops be made at the end of each biennium so as to enable the State to reach the ideal of total prohibition within a measurable distance of time. The report will engage the careful consideration of the Government on the expiry of the period allowed for public criticism.

53. Education. The committee appointed to consider and report on the question of a separate University for Travancore has submitted its report which is now in process of printing. The committee has recommended the establishment of a University of the federal type with headquarters at Trivandrum. As regards the area to be brought within its ambit, the committee has suggested that the Government should ascertain the possibility of securing the immediate co-operation, on reasonable terms, of Cochin and Malabar in the creation of a pan-Kerala University, and has urged that, even in the event of such co-operation not forthcoming, the University should be started, its doors being kept open for the incorporation, on equal terms with those of Travancore, of educational institutions of university standing in other parts of Kerala. The report is a bulky volume containing much matter for close study and careful examination; and the Government propose, as early as practicable, to devote their attention to the consideration of the problems therein discussed.

54. The question of admitting a larger number of students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College again came up for consideration at the end of the last academic year, and the Government, after examining the problem of collegiate education in the State in all its aspects, ordered the bifurcation of the college, the Science departments remaining in the old buildings and the Arts departments being removed to the new building in the premises of the Training College at Taikad. The strength of the college, which had risen from 647 in 1096 to 837 in 1098, further rose to 1,201 as a result of this bifurcation. A considerably larger number of Travancore students have thus been able to secure admission to the colleges in Trivandrum. The old college, which is designated His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Science, contains the Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Natural Science departments, together with provision for teaching English up to the B. A. Pass degree standard, while the new college, known as His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts, contains the History and Languages departments with Honors courses in English and History. Application has been made to the University for the affiliation of the College of Science in the Mathematics Honours course, while the question of opening a Geology chair also in that college and a Philosophy chair in the College of Arts is under the consideration of the Government. Several structural alterations were carried out in the buildings of the old

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly